

From LtCol Mark R. Hollahan

7 December 2007

Families and Friends of Combat Logistics Battalion 22

We are rapidly moving into another month of the deployment, with Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas just around the corner. The MEU and Strike Group have been very busy, conducting operations across the breadth of US Central Command and into US Pacific Command, where CLB Marines and Sailors aboard KEARSARGE took part in OPERATION SEA ANGEL II, a humanitarian relief operation in Bangladesh. Your Marines and Sailors of CLB-22 performed professionally and superbly.

We, aboard GUNSTON HALL, have been busy, with some time spent in the Seychelles for liberty, and the opportunity to participate in the centuries-old naval tradition, Crossing the Line, in recognition of sailing past the Equator. Following our visit to the Seychelles, where all hands enjoyed a few days of 'island time' relaxation. Completing that, we headed back to work, and have supported CENTCOM Maritime Security Operations.

Your Marines aboard PONCE have spent most of their time supporting various high level events in the Arabian Gulf, and had the opportunity to visit the ports in 5th Fleet. They have been busy and continue to do great things. Notably, Corporal Lesseme Ducatel, Supply Plt, was the honor graduate from the PONCE Corporal's Course. Well Done, Marine!

Our team aboard Kearsarge journeyed far to the east, in response to the terrible cyclone that struck Bangladesh in late November. Traveling over 3000 miles, they arrived the day after Thanksgiving, and began the hard work of preparing and providing much needed relief and aid to the disaster-stricken country. The efforts of the whole 22d MEU and KEARSARGE team was superb, and your CLB Marines and Sailors were in the thick of it, providing water, medical supplies, logistics and medical treatment. A super effort across the board.

We have graduated 2 Corporal's Courses on Gunston Hall, with the following Top graduates and leadership graduates; Corporal Jesse Bramer, HQ/S3-Honor Graduate, Corporal Tara Emerick, HQ/MP, and Corporal Travis Anderline, Maint Plt - Leadership award for Class 1-08 and Corporal Ryan Roush, Maint Plt-Honor Graduate, Corporal Katie McGuffie, Comm Plt, Corporal Matthew Sullivan, Eng Plt and Corporal Steven Simpson, HQ/Food Service -Leadership award for Class 2-08 Congratulations to our Corporals!

I remain immensely proud of the achievements and professional performance of the Marines and Sailors of CLB-22, and am proud to be a part of this great battalion. I encourage you to continue visiting the 22d MEU (SOC) website at www.22meu.usmc.mil for further details and photographs of the Battalion's events as they are posted during the deployment.

If you should have any concerns, questions or just need some moral support during our deployment, I encourage you to contact your Key Volunteer, Family Readiness Staff Non-commissioned Officer, our family hotline or this website (www.22meu.usmc.mil) to obtain the up-to-date information you need. Please keep in mind that official and factual information regarding the Battalion's movements, activities and operations will come solely from the 22d MEU (SOC) Commanding Officer through me. Information sourced from me will only be delivered through the channels mentioned previously.

Thanks again for your prayers and support. My best wishes to all the families and friends back home.

Mark R. Hollahan
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Commanding Officer
Combat Logistics Battalion 22

22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable)